The Dearborn Express

Sponsored by the South Loop Referral Group
Serving Printers Row and Dearborn Park
AL HIPPENSTEEL, EDITOR
JANICE KOERBER, ASST. EDITOR

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The 2022 Illinois primary comes later than usual this year: June 28. Don’t vote in ignorance.

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- Be ready.
  - Register to vote in [Chicago](https://chicagovotes.org) and [suburban Cook County](https://www Boise.gov).
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  - ... or the [Illinois State Board of Elections](https://www.elections.state.il.us).

- Be smart.
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  - Plan your vote with the [League of Women Voters](https://www.lwvcook.org) guide.
  - Watch candidates’ two-minute video statements in [WTTW’s guide](https://wttw.org).

- **Chicago Tribune** endorsements.
- **Daily Herald** endorsements.
- **Bar associations’ ratings** of judicial candidates in Cook County.
- **Injustice Watch’s judicial primary guide**.

Do it.

- Voting by mail? Here’s how to do it in [Chicago](https://chicagovotes.org) and the [Cook County suburbs](https://www Boise.gov).
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- Here’s where to vote Election Day in [Chicago](https://chicagovotes.org) and the [suburbs](https://www Boise.gov).
- Trouble at your polling place? Call [866-OUR-VOTE](https://866ourvote.org).

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Mon, Jun 20, 5:30pm.........................Chicago Jazz Orchestra – A Tribute to Joe Williams & Count Basie

Tues, June 21, 8pm & 11pm .................“Lonely Girl—I Remember Julie” CD Release
                                      Petra Van Nuis “

Weds, June 22, 8pm & 11pm .............. Julian and Friends

Thu-Sat, Jun 23-25, 8pm.................... Orbert Davis

Sun, Jun 26, 8pm.......................... Orbert Davis

Mon, Jun 27, 5:30pm.......................... Chicago Jazz Orchestra featuring Bobby Broom

Thu-Sun, Jun 30-Jul 3, 8pm............... Saxophonist Greg Ward II

Thu-Sun, Jul 7-10, 8pm..................... Bobby Lewis Quintet

Mon, Jul 11, 5:30pm.......................... Chicago Jazz Orchestra

Tue, Jul 12, 8pm............................ WDCB 9.9FM

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South Loop Neighbors is a non-profit membership based organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in South Loop's neighborhoods and preserving the area’s landmark districts. South Loop Neighbors represents South Loop residents who are concerned about:

- Ensuring high-quality, reasonably-sized real estate development as well as infrastructure improvements that respect the unique character of our community
- Preserving and protecting the area's Landmark Districts, including Printing House Row and Historic Michigan Boulevard
- Promoting quality education, recreation, services, retail, community activities, and events
- Maintaining a socially, culturally, and economically diverse neighborhood
- Developing strong relationships with key city officials to ensure they respect, hear, and act on the concerns and ideas of the South Loop community. South Loop Neighbors serves members and residents within the area bounded by Congress Parkway to approximately 25th Street and from the Chicago River to Lake Michigan.  

Www.Southloopneighbors.org

Development update Presentation

A roundup of what's proposed and underway for the South Loop was the program at our annual meeting in January. You can watch it on YouTube.

The latest information on planning and development in our area can always be found at our website SouthLoopUpdate.org

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South Loop Neighbors
Elected board
President – Jim Wales
V.P. of Planning & Development – Dennis McClendon
Vice President/Secretary – Benjamin Cottrell
Treasurer – Dorothy Miaso
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Luna and I had a great time in Highland Park.

Any time I publish one of these “Questions Kids Ask” posts listing the questions I get at the school presentations I do with my Seeing Eye dogs, our friend and neighbor Mel Theobald hounds, excuse the pun, me to tell him what my answers were. And every time he asks, I come back with the same response: “Wanna hear the answers? You’ll have to come to a school presentation and find out!”

And guess what? Last Thursday he took the bait! He and Jan Devlin, another neighbor and friend, drove Luna and me to Highland Park, Illinois to visit third graders at Sherwood Elementary, a school that participates in an Educating Outside the Lines Disability Awareness Week program. Every day that week someone with a disability came to talk with Sherwood Elementary School students about their disability and the “helper tools” that let us do the things we like — or need — to do.

Luna guided me to two presentations for third graders Thursday morning. At each one I talked with the kids about being blind, what service dogs do, and how I use a talking computer to write books. As my Black Lab and I were readying ourselves for the question-and-answer part at one of the presentations, the teacher there gushed over Luna. “She’s sooooo pretty!” I took my cue, turned to the third-graders and told them I hear that a lot. “I just pretend they’re talking about me!” I laughed, then the questions started pouring in:

- Did you cook your own food?
- How do you, like make your breakfast and your cereal and stuff?
- How can you eat, then?
- How do you know where someone is if you can’t see them?
- Did you ever get robbed because you are blind?
- How do you know what earrings or necklace to wear when you’re getting dressed?
- Have you ever lost your dog when you were walking?
- Can you see in your dreams?
- Can you swim?
- What was the last thing you ever saw?
- How does your dog know where you are when you go on a walk?
- This is not a question, it’s a comment. You’re very pretty. And I mean you, not the dog.
- How old is your dog in people years?
- How can you ride a bike?

And with that, I picked up Luna’s harness, commanded, “Luna, Outside!” and the children cheered as my Seeing Eye dog guided me out of the classroom. “Good dog, Luna!”

Special thanks to Mel Theobald for acting as scribe and writing down all the questions the kids asked last Thursday. Dying to know me answers? Just ask Mel. Or Jan!
The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or South Loop Referral Group.

Retired in Chicago

Tired of the arguments against gun control

By Marianne Goss, May 29, 2022

I had a different post written for today, but a personal focus felt crass after a week when 19 innocent fourth graders were gunned down in their classroom in Uvalde, Texas. That came 10 days after 10 African Americans were shot in a Buffalo grocery store. In both cases, the gunman was an 18-year-old male with AR-15-style rifles.

Closer to home, fear of gun violence, not new to people on the South and West Sides, has spread throughout Chicago like a metastasizing cancer. No place feels safe today. Downtown, where I live, has seen a surge in shootings this year, including highly publicized homicides near the Bean and a Red Line station. I used to walk home from Millennium Park or the Goodman Theatre on warm evenings. Now I’m nervous walking the block from the bus stop.

I don’t have anything to say that hasn’t been said elsewhere, but I need to express outrage and frustration. I don’t understand how our politicians can continue to let this happen, how a minority beholden to the National Rifle Association can overrule the desire of the great majority of Americans for stricter gun regulations.

I’m tired of hearing about Second Amendment rights, as if the drafters of the Constitution 235 years ago could foresee military assault weapons being brought into classrooms, places of worship, concerts, nightclubs, and supermarkets.

I’m tired of hearing the “thoughts and prayers” cliché after a slaughter, as if it is enough.

“Guns don’t kill, people do,” we hear, and more attention to mental health is proposed. Although New York State has a red flag law, and his school had reported him, the shooter in Buffalo was still able to buy two rifles. Mentally ill people can’t kill with guns they can’t get.

Gun control doesn’t work, we hear. It works elsewhere. We’re the only developed country in the world with such carnage from gun violence. Countries that tightened their gun laws, such as the UK and Australia, reduced their rates of gun-related deaths, including mass shootings.

Chicago has strict gun regulations, and they haven’t solved the problem, we hear. Guns are brought from Indiana and other states that are lax about firearms. We need national solutions.

The NRA and Republicans propose “hardening schools” with extra security measures. The Uvalde school district has its own police, classroom door locks, and other security safeguards. The shooter still got in. Nineteen police officers stood for almost an hour in the hallway on the other side of the door from the shooter. A school officer hid during the 2018 shooting in Parkland, Florida, that massacred 17 people.

Ten years ago, 20 elementary school children and six adults were gunned down at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. Since then, there have been almost 1,000 school shootings among 3,500 mass shootings in the United States, and Congress has not passed one piece of gun legislation.

What can we ordinary people do? All I can think of is to stop electing representatives who take money from the NRA (see a list). The NRA overwhelming supports Republicans, so Chicagoans will need to help defeat candidates in other states.

https://www.chicagonow.com/retired-in-chicago/about/

Dearborn Express
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To Subscribe
thedearbornexpress@gmail.com
Dearbornexpress.net/
Ice Cream Social  
Thurs., July 21  
5:00-7:00 pm  
Printers Row Park  
532 S. Dearborn  

Summer's coming...  

Come out and enjoy a free ice cream social sponsored by the South Loop Neighbors in partnership with Printers Row Advisory Council.

Tuesday, May 31, 2022  
Partners Animal Hospital Coming to Former Chase Retail Space on Dearborn  
(542 S Dearborn St)  
Mr. South Loop has the scoop on a new pet hospital for Printers Row:  

mrsouthloop  
Partners Animal Hospital is coming soon to 542 S Dearborn St. The former home to Chase Bank.

http://www.sloopin.com/

American Writers Museum
180 N. Michigan Ave, 2nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60601
https://americanwritersmuseum.org/

Sudhir Venkatesh: The Tomorrow Game
New York Times bestselling author Sudhir Venkatesh discusses his new book The Tomorrow Game, a gripping account of a Chicago community coming together to save a group of teens from gun violence. In the tradition of works like Random Family and Behind the Beautiful Forevers, The Tomorrow Game is a deeply reported chronicle of families surviving in a Southside Chicago community. Join us for an evening with Venkatesh, live and in person at the American Writers Museum.
Register for the program here.

At the heart of the story are two teenagers: Marshal Mariot, an introverted video gamer and bike rider, and Frankie Paul, who leaves foster care to direct his cousin’s drug business while he’s in prison. Frankie devises a plan to attack Marshall and his friends—it is his best chance to showcase
June is Pride Month, celebrated with multi-colored flags on federal buildings, concerts by the Windy City Gay Chorus, and myriad “pride” products, like tortillas, swimsuits and shopping bags in the colors of the Pride flag. The Chicago Public Library, our bastion of culture, kindness and cool, also celebrates with lists of books to read, including Ten Steps to Nanette, A Memoir Situation by Hannah Gadsby, a Tasmanian stand-up comic who found a global audience in 2018 with her Netflix special Nanette, her unapologetic, uncomfortably intimate and personally vulnerable interrogation of homophobia, ableism, sexual violence, body shaming, and patriarchy. The book is wildly funny, achingly sad and scary, and terribly long (she confesses her imaginary ghostwriter would have told less). Gadsby introduces herself: “For most of my life I have been a financially insecure autistic Australian gender queer vagina-wielding situation who does not have a bird-like skeletal system. I might have had a reasonable shot with only one or two of those ‘quirks,’ but not the whole set, and certainly not with Cate Blanchett already in town hogging all the moody lesbian roles.” Her life was made no easier by the accident of geography. Tasmanians prided themselves on their anti-gay posture, voiced by hate-groups like HALO, Homophobic Activists Liberation Organization, and CRAMP, Concerned Residents Against Moral Pollution. Legislative battles over decriminalizing sodomy “turned homophobia from a thing that was condoned on the quiet… into something that could be freely and openly justifiable, a duty born of a God-given right.” In comparison, the US is considered advanced in recognizing LGBTQ+ equality, but in 2022, more than 300 bills have been introduced or passed in 36 states to restrict their rights. And Chicago police are investigating a plot by downstate white power groups to attack last weekend’s Gay Pride Parade in Idaho in advance of our own celebratory march, led by Lori Lightfoot, Chicago’s first gay mayor. Gadsby stayed unsure and closeted until high school, but she heard one of her teammates in a golf tournament “call me a dirty Lezzy and the rest of them laugh in agreement.” It took years for her to come out to anybody, and her mother’s reaction stung: “Why did you have to tell me that?” Eventually, her rather unconventional family came around, but her personal struggle was painful: “to have another person reveal your secret to the world is humiliating enough, but it’s so so much worse when it happens before you’ve worked it out for yourself.” In addition to her sexual identity, she hated her body, and even as an adult, she was dismayed that her audience laughed harder at her fat jokes than anything else. Her reflections and revelations about the burdens and daily mental gymnastics required by her ADHD and belatedly-diagnosed Autism Spectrum Disorder (typical for girls and women) brilliantly lead us to empathy rather than sympathy, although her suffering is no joke. “ADHD and ASD make a lot of people very, very angry.” Her condition led to disabling injuries, sexual assault, and crippling fear. Don’t be afraid. Nanette, Hannah writes, “is basically Eat Pray Love for autistic queer women.”
Opinion

Backstory Essays
Regan Burke
May 19, 2022

The Day I Turned Old

My actual (as opposed to official) retirement began the day I walked into Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago and asked to volunteer for a few hours each weekday. I’d had a couple of rough years at my final payroller job and I thought volunteering would help lift me into a new way of thinking. Or, more precisely, I wanted a time-filler to keep from obsessing over the aftermath of the soul-crushing previous twenty-four months of my life.

Oh churches! There seem to be so many cries for help, until they try to find a job fit for you. I grabbed the first one offered and plunked myself down in front of a computer in the cubicle next to Vince, a friendly volunteer who was out of work but not yet retired. Our job: clean up the database.

The database. Every pensioner I’ve met since my stint who looked to the church to help fill the first year’s lonely unproductive hours says the same thing. “I started with the database.”

Vince knew what he was doing and in fact devised a formula and matrix for our work. I suppose it was simple. If you could pay attention. I couldn’t. At the end of each of my four hour stints, he’d spot-check my work and stay an extra hour or more to correct everything I tried to accomplish. Vince had an advantage—he was good at the game Concentration. He could spot a misspelled name in seconds-flat with his highly industrious mind.

The room next to the dreaded cubicles had been cleared of all furniture. It may have been the size of a football field. For about a year, having been diagnosed with PTSD due to the aforementioned job, my perception of size, space and time was like science fiction, all out of whack.

One day, I heard an old Frankie Valli tune, “Sherry Baby” seeping under the door from that huge room. Of course I learned all the words—they’re pretty simple—as a teenager and never forgot them.

“What’s going on in there?” I asked Vince.

“Sher-er-ree, Sherr-ee, Baby...”

“Oh, that’s the old people’s exercise class,” he said.

“Old people?”

“Yeah, ya’ know. CLL. The Center for Life and Learning.”

I didn’t, in fact, know. The church bulletin had notices about CLL but I never thought they were meant for me. Within the next few weeks, each day I grew grumpier and grumpier working on the database.

“Vince,” I said, “No offense, but I’d rather be in that room dancing around to “Sherry Baby” than sitting in front of a computer.”

“Aw, yes, Regan,” he said, “But would it be as rewarding?”

Rewarding. Now there’s a loaded word. Did I really need to feel rewarded for the hours between sunrise and sunset? How about satisfied? Couldn’t I just feel satisfied?

Or, neutral?

“Vince. I’m logging out today and joining the exercise group tomorrow.”

And that day, that neutral day, is the day I turned old.

by Regan Burke In That Number: One Woman’s March From the Streets of Protest to the Halls of Power (And Beyond)
Available at Sandmeyer’s Book Store and other places.
Dearborn Park, 9th and Plymouth

Bring your own meat (or veggies) and join your neighbors for a night of good food and good times. South Loop Neighbors will provide the grills, drinks, chips, and dessert. This is an all-neighborhood party! You do not need to be a member of South Loop Neighbors to attend the event.

Free for all attendees!

At Cottontail Park . . . Grills Night Out
Saturday, June 18th

Genita Robinson and Bonnie McGrath enjoy the cooler than normal weather for the picnic event.

See the next event coming up in July.

Jim Wales and Dennis McClendon of South Loop Neighbors work the grill.

Grills Night Out

Jul 23, 7:00 PM

Dearborn Park, 9th and Plymouth

Bring your own meat (or veggies) and join your neighbors for a night of good food and good times. South Loop Neighbors will provide the grills, drinks, chips, and dessert. This is an all-neighborhood party! You do not need to be a member of South Loop Neighbors to attend the event.

Free for all attendees!

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All Alone in the Moonlight: A Review of “Skates” at Studebaker Theater
June 9, 2022 at 7:00 am by Brian Hieggelke

Like gray hair and being utterly baffled by new technology, nostalgia bristles with age, which is why there’s a robust musical theater tradition of trafficking in the olden days of the always-aging target audience. When I was young, the culture was awash in works like “Grease” that harkened back to the youth of my parents in the fifties, but today my adolescent years are having their own moment. “Skates,” the creation of Chicago native Christine Rea (book and lyrics) and her husband Rick Briskin (music and lyrics), in its world premiere at the freshly restored Studebaker Theater, has its heart in the seventies, at a South Side roller rink called Windy City Skates.

“Skates” tells the story of Jacqueline Miller, a pop star enjoying her first hit song and national tour in 1994 and yet unhappy in life and love. So she yearns for the days when she was twelve, spending her free time at the roller rink and yearning for her first crush. Told in flashbacks where her 1994 being hovers around her 1977 self, in a “ghost of roller rinks past” way, as her return home to the rink part of her tour approaches, you can probably imagine where it all goes, since we’ve seen more nuanced versions of this story so many times before.

Diana DeGarmo, who came to fame on “American Idol,” plays the nineties version of Jacqueline. She’s a powerful performer whose charisma too often takes a back seat to her twelve-year-old self, played capably by Emma Lord, but as a character who in no way foreshadows the charisma of her future stardom. The 1994 framing material is more grounded in its writing but still telegraphs beats drawn from the cliché canon, especially in the limited role of Blake, Miller’s love interest (and DeGarmo’s real-life husband, Ace Young), who gets to shine on the saxophone while playing the cad, a role he’s forced to amplify in his seventies manifestation as the bullying Russ Reiner.

Jackie’s mom and dad, played by Cory Goodrich and Jason Richards, have standout moments and show off some fine vocal capabilities. The choreography, set on faux roller skates, has terrific moments but could have so many more, since it’s hard to beat disco dancing at the roller rink if you want to evoke the seventies.

With the exception of the heartfelt “I’m Crushing On You,” the songs are catchy if not hit material, but give the creators credit for composing original material. There’s usually safety in the jukebox for these dances down memory lane, such as in “Million Dollar Quartet,” “Jersey Boys” and dozens of other shows, but there’s none of that here.

In Chicago Cooks: 45 Perfect Recipes for the Passionate Palate, the basics are covered for any kind of meal.

Not every food category is included here, but the ones we have chosen represent a foundation any cook will need to provide for a family or to entertain brilliantly.

We hope you will trust us and try these recipes so that you can experience food made with care and passion, food that stimulates your palate, and inspires you to share each recipe with those you love.

The two authors are long-time residents of Chicago. Returning to Chicago after 40 years in California as a jazz producer and recording engineer, Jonathan Horwich has continued pursuing his passion for music and high quality sound. Carol Montag grew up in St. Louis, MO and came to Chicago to attend The University of Chicago and never left. She has been an educator for 52 years as a classroom teacher, school administrator, and educational coach.

Available at Sandmeyer’s and Amazon.

https://www.chicagocooks.net/
Thoughts on living in tents: under an Archer Avenue viaduct...in Chicago parks... that one time in Idaho...and that time in California's Steinbeck Country

Sometimes, my former journalism students from Columbia College call me when they’re working on stories about the South Loop, where I’ve lived for almost 30 years. One call will always stand out. A young man rung me up to ask about homelessness in the neighborhood. He wanted to pick my brain on everything from the prevalence of living in the street to the efficacy of such a lifestyle in my neighborhood.

At some point, I told him I didn’t advise under any circumstances that anyone live under the stars, without bathroom facilities, if for no other reason than they may be prey to people who might try to abuse or even kill them. Not that a roof over one’s head are certain to prevent that—but he knew what I meant.

Why make it easy for drunks, sadists or madmen to have a little fun with a sorry soul, who may be mentally ill, sorrowfully addicted or hopelessly without resources and support of any kind.

I told him there were plenty of places out there that take people in—from churches to do-gooder shelters to government-sponsored programs—to get people off the streets. And I said I thought it was terrible that so much housing gets torn down and ends up as a rubble lots in downtrodden neighborhoods, when these same groups and government programs could rehabilitate them and provide decent housing for those who need it, thereby helping the neighborhoods and the homeless at the same time.

“I’d hate to see the city turn into a bunch of tent cities,” I said. And he got very quiet and I could tell he probably thought I was a little too much a law-and-order right winger who just didn’t get it.

I got it, alright. And it’s happened. We have a bunch of tent cities around town that are disgraceful. They aren’t Woodstooks, Haight-Ashburys or Amsterdam in it’s drugs—wow! heyday. They are horrid symbols of how all the institutions—governmental and nongovernmental—have failed. Completely and miserably. Whatever the cause, I can’t buy that it’s here to stay. No one is doing much about it, but maybe if we elect the right people, that will change.

Or maybe not.

When there are potholes to fix, CTA routes that don’t run right and gang shootings downtown, everyone concentrates on that.

And human beings living and doing all their business in the streets? Living in a tent in Chicago. Is it freedom they seek? No one lives anywhere in total freedom. And a tent under a viaduct on Archer Avenue, for instance, isn’t really living free. I’s not free from pollution, knifings, filth and communicable disease.

A while back, I was walking down archer when I got to a long stretch of a viaduct with high sidewalks on both sides. Problem was, it was impossible to get down either sidewalk, packed as they were with tents that touched each other and left no room to walk. I considered walking in the street but it was very dark down under and cars might not see me. And it would be impossible to vacillate between street and sidewalk when cars came, due to the aforementioned sidewalk height. So I retraced my steps and and took the long way.

Granted, not a big problem in comparison to being homeless, sick, drug addicted or mentally ill with no treatment in sight and laying about under a bridge, albeit in a tent.

But why do we allow this anywhere in this City—or in this Country? Those empty lots as a result of the torn down houses that the city owns? Why can’t they be designated as campgrounds, with toilets, water and group visits that bring food and offers of help of various kinds?

I’ve heard of such attempts but unless there’s room for all—and everyone is forced to go there rather than on a sidewalk, they aren’t working. Some will say that making people go there robs them of their freedom. But if I didn’t pay my real estate taxes, I’d have my house taken away. There are rules that govern any lifestyle. Rent not paid: you are out on the street. Income taxes not paid, cable bill not paid, condo assessments not paid, I could go on and on. There are unlikeable consequences.

Ultimately we are all doing things that if we stop doing them, there are grave consequences. and no group of people, no matter how downtrodden and poor, should escape at least some responsibility. And camping in a lot provided for that is not a heavy consequence. So the powers that be should provide them. No living on the sidewalk allowed, should be a hard and fast rule.

Recently, my mother, brother, daughter and I took a ride to the neighborhood I grew up in. We made a stop at Margate Park, where I spent much of my childhood inside the field house in the gym and in the arts and crafts room with Mr. Myers, the art teacher who provided us with all sorts of plaster figurines that we could paint to our hearts’ content. I also learned to swim “at Margate.” Actually, we put on our suits and walked over to the Boys’ Club a few blocks away to use their pool. We got our walking and swimming in—in one fell swoop. And nothing beat Day Camp in Margate Park. Doing all sorts of stuff in the park behind my beloved field house. I can still taste (and smell) my daily bologna sandwich on Wonder bread that my mom packed for me every day to eat outside at lunchtime. How I loved those sandwiches, although these days I wouldn’t touch one with a 10-foot pole.

What we found that day when we visited the park was a tent city that covered every square foot of the park surrounding the field house, which was closed.

So where did everyone use the bathroom? If they used the grass, no one would be far from other people’s excrement—since the tents were wall to wall. I saw no portable toilets or potable water sources. Did good-hearted souls come during the day or at night with provisions and other accouterments of comfort?

Continues on page 23

Bonnie McGrath

Visit my blog:  www.chicagonow.com/mom-think-poignant/
I got a chance to see the restored Studebaker Theater Sunday night for the opening of the new musical "Skates." Occupying the first floor of the Fine Arts Building, it had been converted into a movie theater when I finished college. Called the Fine Arts Theatre, it was the place where I discovered art-house films, seeing Jean Renoir’s "French Can-Can" in the early eighties, David Lynch’s "Blue Velvet" in 1986 and many others, through 1997’s immensely popular Roberto Benigni film "Life is Beautiful," which was shown not long before the cinema closed for good. Now it’s back to its beginnings as a "legitimate" theater—the city's oldest—and it looks fantastic. The roster of plays and actors who’ve graced its stage, including Mae West, Ruth Gordon, Eartha Kitt, Ethel Barrymore, Henry Fonda and on and on, reads like a history of American performing arts.

Brian Hieggelke

Kayoung An: Piano Recital
June 27 @ 7:30pm-9:00pm

Winner of the First Prize at the New York International Artists Association Piano Competition and the Silver Award winner at the Paris International Competition, Kayoung made her debut in Weill Carnegie Recital Hall in 2013.

Purchase Tickets: $20

PianoForte Studios, 1335 South Michigan Ave
Chicago, IL 60605 United States
$20

https://pianofortechicago.com/events/

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Purchase Tickets: $20

PianoForte Studios, 1335 South Michigan Ave
Chicago, IL 60605 United States
$20

https://pianofortechicago.com/events/
Mondays with Mike:

by mknezo2014 July 20, 2020

BACK IN THE BALLGAME

Originally published on July 20, 2020

Last night, I watched the White Sox beat the Cubs in an exhibition game, part of the teams’ preparation for a truncated season. That season will be 60 games, if they’re lucky enough to finish; a normal season is 162 games.

There were no drunken brawls between the contentious fan bases in the stands, because there were no fans. Foul balls that reached the seats just bounced around.

The game was played at Wrigley Field, but the announcers we chose to watch sat in a booth at White Sox park and called the game from screens. Crowd noise was piped in through the PA system at Wrigley so the players and the viewers could hear it. Many players sat in stadium seats just behind the dugout to avoid crowding to keep them all spaced at safe distance. The organ played, but I don’t know if it was live or pre-recorded bursts.

On the one hand it was completely, utterly, weird. On the other hand, a great pitch looked like it always has, and so did a home run.

Though I still have mixed feelings about the endeavor—trying this hard for normalcy in abnormal times makes me dizzy—I’ll confess, I found it glorious.

Without most all the trappings associated with a typical MLB game and broadcast, I was delighted that the game remains the game. Jason Benetti and Steve Stone, the White Sox announcers, were so ecstatic about being back in the game that the weirdness took a back seat. (Benetti is practiced in remote baseball broadcasting—he’s been calling Korean games from home in the wee hours of the morning for a couple months now for ESPN.)

I don’t know how long it’ll last. They haven’t played a single real game yet. There has been no travel. The whole thing is fraught. And I hope no one suffers for the effort. I wouldn’t wish covid on my worst enemy (OK, there is one exception).

But for one night, baseball.
Transit Ridership Up
“With prices at the pump hitting record highs nationwide, more people are looking to public transit,” reports WGN-TV. “Cities like New York and Chicago, which rely on public transit heavily, are seeing some of the biggest increases in ridership... There are still open seats... on most lines... The boom in remote working and recent highly publicized incidents of violence on transit have put downward pressure on ridership.” Meanwhile, Boston’s transit agency will place urine sensors on the floors of several elevators on the T. “The elevators were selected based on how often people were peeing in the cabs, different cab sizes, and the different environments they were located in, to see how well the sensors work. For example, the detection may be different in elevators in enclosed spaces versus those that are exposed to the street level and outside air.”

Vivian Maier Arrives In London
“The story of Vivian Maier (1926-2009) is wonderfully peculiar,” writes Chloë Ashby at The Art Newspaper. “For four decades she worked as a nanny in New York and Chicago, during which time she secretly took hundreds of thousands of photographs. She was fiercely dedicated and technically skilled, yet she shared her images with virtually no one. ‘She was an invisible woman,’ says Anne Morin, the curator of the first UK exhibition of Maier’s work, at MK Gallery in Milton Keynes. ‘She never had her own life, living in the house of her employers, working for them. The only territory where she could be free with her own identity was photography. This was her way to exist.’”

https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/06/10/vivian-maier-mk-gallery-street-photography-exhibition

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Help make the South Loop Chicago’s best location for pickleball!

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America. It’s enjoyed by old and young, men and women — from beginners to pros. All a player needs is a paddle, a ball and a court, which makes this sport very accessible. But finding a court in Chicago is difficult.

Currently, Grant Park has no dedicated pickleball courts. Pickleball players have to use the tennis courts at Maggie Daley Park, where they’re allowed to play for only two hours a day — Monday through Friday.

There is, however, an opportunity to build eight dedicated pickleball courts in Grant Park on Columbus Dr. near 8th Street. These courts would be lighted and available exclusively for pickleball — every day — from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. But we need your help.

The Grant Park Advisory Council and a group of dedicated pickleball enthusiasts is working hard to raise the funds to build these courts. The Chicago Park District and Alderman King’s 4th Ward Office have each committed to paying one-third of the $105,000 cost. That leaves one-third of the cost ($35,000) for the community to raise. Please donate whatever you can!

The Chicago Parks Foundation, the Chicago Park District’s 501c3 partner, is handling all donations. To donate to this project, simply scan the attached QR code and complete the donation form. Or, visit http://weblink.donorperfect.com/GrantParkPickleball. Your donation will be restricted to this project.

Your donation is urgently needed to get this project rolling! The sooner we reach our fundraising goal, the sooner these courts will be built. Chicago’s currently has only four dedicated pickleball courts, and these are on the South Side. The new courts in the South Loop will allow more people to discover pickleball and to play on a regular basis. They will also help build momentum for more dedicated courts throughout Chicago.

If you have any questions, contact the Grant Park Advisory Council at vpgpacchicago@gmail.com or Greg Borzo at Greg@ChicagoPickleball.com.
Please note that Chicago Park District policy only allows donor names. They do not permit poems, sayings, slogans, emojis, or company logos. However, they do permit “In Memory Of” for a loved one, if you so wish. All submissions will be reviewed by Chicago Park District for compliance with this policy prior to engraving.

Order Form

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Jim Rice, President
Printers Row Park Advisory Council
600 S. Dearborn Street, Suite 910
Chicago, IL 60605
Central Camera Reopens 122-Year-Old Loop Shop After 2020 Fire, Looting: ‘I’m So Happy This Place Is Still Here’

The store was destroyed in May 2020 in the unrest after police killed George Floyd. Almost two years later, it's back open thanks to $230,000 in donations from Chicagoans.

Melody Mercado 7:41 AM CDT on Jun 16, 2022

DOWNTOWN — Don Flesch is known for passing out little snacks to his customers. “Grab a chocolate,” Flesch reminds them on their way out.

Now, the 73-year-old is back in action behind the counter at Central Camera’s store, which reopened at 230 S. Wabash Ave, in March after being looted and burned down during 2020’s civil unrest after police murdered George Floyd in Minneapolis. First opened in 1899 by Flesch’s grandfather, the store attracts shoppers from around the world looking for unique camera finds and in-person service.

The May 2020 fire, which started in the basement, took about 30 firefighters and six hours to put out. Only about 50 items were salvageable out of the shop’s collection of 10,000 items.

It was a total loss, but it was no comparison to the loss of Floyd’s life “and the countless other Black lives lost,” Flesch said at the time.

After the smoke cleared, Flesch and his staff almost immediately started selling what was left on the sidewalk in front of the shop. They eventually moved the shop into a temporary space next door.

Chicagoans rallied around Central Camera’s staff, donating nearly $230,000 to a GoFundMe campaign organized by Flesch’s daughter and an employee. The money helped Flesch rebuild the shop and its inventory.

Flesch remembers a donation for $1,899, commemorating the year the business was founded. As the donations poured in, he was brought to tears, he said.

Flesch said he hopes one day he can personally thank each person who donated.
Over the last 15 years, VOA Illinois has provided a positive start to the school year through Operation Backpack. Operation Backpack is a program that provides backpacks and grade-specific school supplies for the youth we serve including children in foster care, children in families experiencing homelessness, and children of the Veterans we serve. In addition to providing backpacks to over 450 youth in our programs, we host a back-to-school event open to all community members and we partner with local schools, community organizations, and churches to distribute to students in need.

As we gear up for 15 years of Operation Backpack, we invite you to join us and help send the message to these students and their families that they are important, and we are invested in their future. Get started by making a donation - $15 in honor of our 15th year. This campaign relies 100% on support from the community. We can't do it without you!

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA ILLINOIS
47 West Polk Street, Suite 250-2
Chicago, IL 60605
312.564.2300
Here we go again foodies! Season 9 of one of America’s top food truck festivals, the Chicago Food Truck Festival is back!

About this event
Here we go again foodies! Season 9 of one of America’s top food truck festivals, the Chicago Food Truck Festival. The last two years we have all endured a global pandemic. So, we will work to regain normalcy. And that means a taste of Chicago culture, food trucks, foodies and safe fun. Join us as we gather some of Chicago's top gourmet food trucks, for a foodie heaven of tasting chef prepared dishes and delighting the palate with a splash of Sangria or some Chicago's best Beers. Also, did we mention games and live music?

Get your free admission or VIP Drink admission tickets now. To expedite registration lines, there no longer are separate Saturday or Sunday Tickets. Tickets may be used on either day for one use only. So, if you plan to attend both days you will need to claim two free tickets or buy two VIP tickets. For more information, head on over to our website and subscribe to receive regular updates.

Location: 1700 S. Wabash Ave., South Loop Chicago, IL 60616  (Permit Pending)
For More Information and to buy VIP & Drink Tickets go to our website: chicagofoodtruckfestival.com

July 8
Buckingham Fountain in Grant Park, 301 S. Columbus Drive
Noon: Line Dancing, featuring the Cha-Cha Slide/Janelle E. McGhee
1 p.m.: Steppin’/Shaun Ballentine
2 p.m.: Polka Hop/TBA
3 p.m.: Footwork/Christopher “Mad Dog” Thomas
Music by DJ Mwelwa
Guest emcee Jennifer Billock, author of Block Club article “Here Are 4 Dance Styles Born In Chicago To Mark The ‘Year Of Chicago Dance’”

July 9
Buckingham Fountain in Grant Park, 301 S. Columbus Drive
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.: A Walkie Talkie Dancey Party, presented by Chicago Children’s Theatre & The Q Brothers.
1 p.m.: Ballroom Basics (for kids and families)/Dancing With Class
2 p.m.: East Coast Swing/May I Have This Dance
3 p.m.: Merengue/May I Have This Dance
Credit: Provided

July 10
Buckingham Fountain in Grant Park, 301 S. Columbus Drive
Noon: Salsa/La Mecca Dance Chicago
1 p.m.: Kizomba/Shafeeha Monae
2 p.m.: Bachata/Chicago Dance
3 p.m.: Afrobeats/Stacy “Jukeboxx” Letrice
Music by DJ Kimani Rashad
‘52 Things to Do in Chicago’ highlights neighborhoods that tourists overlook
By Bianca Kreusel, Deputy Director of Photography  May 12, 2022
From ofrendas in Pilsen during Día de los Muertos to Lunar New Year celebrations in Chinatown, Chicago is filled with diverse cultures, attractions, activities and people throughout its neighborhoods. Rosalind Cummings-Yeates’ new book, “52 Things to Do in Chicago,” is a guidebook for locals looking to visit more than the typical tourist attractions the city has to offer, including places on Chicago’s South Side.

Cummings-Yeates, an adjunct faculty member in the Communication Department, was recruited by Moon Publications, a popular guidebook publisher, during the pandemic in 2020. Cummings-Yeates said she took the opportunity to highlight overlooked and under-appreciated neighborhoods and businesses around the city, despite the tourism industry hitting a standstill due to COVID-19.

The Road from Money, a great American story, explores the life and times of a central character, Estella Reynolds (1925 – 2009), whose journey begins in the cotton fields of Money, Mississippi; and who becomes a millionaire in the North.

Newly released book trailer for Part 1:  
https://youtu.be/bw4Ed2xKegA

Purchase today at:  www.boydbooks.net

(Autographed with free shipping)
Join a Safety Committee

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCILS
Residents in the 4th Ward are getting together to be proactive about their own safety. Every community area has an Advisory Council with a Safety sub-committee. It is important that communities organize themselves to be more vigilant by getting to know each other better, sharing contact information, and, creating mechanisms to communicate quickly and effectively. Please enquire about Block Club and Safety Subcommittees within your Community Advisory Council. To get involved, please contact our office at 773-536-8103 or email us at ward04@cityofchicago.org. To reach out directly to the advisory councils, visit our website King4thWard.com/advisory-councils1.

New Community Clinic

SOUTH LOOP
UIC Two-Generation Clinic provides primary care with a focus on postpartum care, primary care, and well-baby care. They also serve fathers. They also provide wrap-around care that includes social work/counseling, psychiatry, lactation, connection to resources, and care coordination. Click here to learn more.

If You See Something, Say Something

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS
“If You See Something, Say Something®” is a national campaign that raises public awareness of the indicators of terrorism, terrorism-related crime, and domestic violent extremism, as well as the importance of reporting suspicious activity to state and local law enforcement. Informed, alert communities play a critical role in keeping our nation safe. Click here to learn more.

Carjacking Prevention Tips

ADDRESS YOUR SAFETY CONCERNS
There have been several instances of carjackings in our community this year, and while we are working with the Chicago Police Department to keep our neighborhoods safe, we hope that you will take heed of these carjacking prevention tips to keep yourself from being a victim.

Night Out In The Parks is Back!

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT
Celebrating 10 years, Night Out in the Parks activates parks across the city with robust cultural events – bringing neighbors together to laugh, dance, sing, and engage. The Chicago Park District, in partnership with more than 120 local artists and organizations, presents engaging events and performances to amplify the artistic and cultural vibrancy of our city in every neighborhood and enhance the quality of life across Chicago. Through theater, music, movies, dance, site-specific performances, nature programs, and community festivals, the series supports Chicago-based artists, facilitates community-based partnerships and programs, cultivates civic engagement, and ensures equity in access to the arts for all Chicagoans. Click here to learn more and here to view the schedule for this summer for the 4th Ward and the rest of the city.

Virtual Alderman 'On the Block'

MEET WITH ALDERMAN KING ON ZOOM
The next Alderman on the Block date is June 27. To request a meeting with Alderman King, please email ward04@cityofchicago.org with the subject line "AOB Meeting Request" describing your issue to secure an appointment. Call 773-536-8103 for comments, questions or concerns.
For more City info, click here

CPD District Meetings

ADDRESS YOUR SAFETY CONCERNS
Use the CPD’s online tool to find your district and beat.

COVID-19 Boosters

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
COVID-19 boosters are now available for everyone 16+ at CDPH-sponsored clinics and programs. Click here to learn more.
All I could think of was the current crop of day campers like I used to be. There was no room to sit with fellow campers and eat a bologna sandwich. Maybe picnics these days are held inside or off-site or not held at all. Where do the kids from the neighborhood play? There wasn’t an inch of space for kids to do anything from what we saw, staring at the volume of tents.

And yet…. I find myself remembering one of the best times in my life, more often than not. The summertime driving trips I took with my first husband Tim in the mid-1970s out west—always with the same destination: to visit his father, who headed the town of Torrance, California. We took a different route in our red 1967 Camaro that my mom gave me when I came home from college—and she decided to share a car with my dad a few years before.

It had a standard transmission with a gear shift adjacent to the steering wheel. And Tim and I were always armed with Mobil Travel Guides, so we didn’t miss any sites along the way.

One year, a couple we’d just met through our work—we were both telephone installers for Illinois Bell but I can’t remember which one of us installed their phones—invited us over for dinner.

He had been French actress Jeanne Moreau’s boyfriend before she married William Friedkin—and before our host married his wife. And we had a wonderful time listening to their stories.

When we were leaving, we told them about our pending summer sojourn, and they insisted we take their little orange pup tent with us; for those times it was hard to get a place to stay, we could always get a spot in a campground or in a National Park.

We loved that idea, just in case. And we ended up spending many a night in it, just as they suggested, in wonderful campgrounds of all kinds.

Once, we were in Idaho, and we ran into some sort of a festival and couldn’t get a campground—or a motel—but there were people who let those of us who were stranded camp in their front yard and backyard—and use their bathroom.

Lovely hospitality and lovely people, I must say. And then there was another time in California, in John Steinbeck country, you might say, where we were exhausted and couldn’t find anywhere to stay. No motels, no openminded homeowners anywhere. Nothing.

In our groggy state, we did spot a very darling city park in the heart of a very nice town, the name of which I don’t remember. I think the park was called “Steinbeck Park,” however. We looked at each other, raised our eyebrows and thought, why not?

We pitched our pup tent in the park. No one was around. It was the middle of the night and we slept soundly, safely and very comfortably, our car parked nearby. Where (or even if) we used a bathroom, I can’t remember. There may have been a public restroom nearby, open all hours in the park, but I don’t know. I have no memory of that.

When we woke up it was sunny and we drove on and stopped for breakfast somewhere.

What I do remember, though, very vividly is the complete feeling of independence, self-reliance, freedom and strength I had that day, a feeling that I call up every once in a while to see me through whatever.

That we could drive to a strange town, pitch a tent in the park, find comfort…. And everything turned out fine. No bad guys, no cops, no varmints, no interruptions at all.

When we got back to Chicago, we had that couple over for dinner, to thank them for the use of their wonderful little orange tent and how it made us feel ever the more self-reliant and relaxed that we had it.

When we gave it back, it had a tiny hole in it. I thought maybe I shouldn’t even mention it. But I did. But they didn’t care and didn’t even check it out.

And I wasn’t sure if they did look for it, that they’d be able to spot it. It was so minuscule.

And in my memory it gets smaller all the time, in comparison to what that little orange tent ultimately gave me, which gets bigger all the time: a feeling of freedom and a lack of concern that has stuck with me ever since.

Bonnie McGrath

The Reed Condominiums at Southbank, by Lendlease - "Where the river meets the city". Perfectly placed along the South Branch of the Chicago river, within the historic Printer’s Row neighborhood, and just south of the Loop, lies Southbank. Chicago’s newest neighborhood brings together the best of modern architecture with over 2 acres of riverfront park, featuring a Riverwalk, amphitheater, and a proposed water taxi stop. An oasis in the center of the city, Southbank is just steps from downtown, delivering the best in modern residences, food, culture, and entertainment. An inclusive and sustainable community that offers a better way of living. The 41-story luxury, new construction tower, designed by Perkins + Will pays homage to Printer’s Row, by offering an industrial chic design, with unmatched views. You will be spoiled by more than 27,000 square feet of amenity spaces featuring an outdoor pool and lounge, al fresco dining with grilling areas, private co-working space, VR sports room, state-of-the art fitness facility, and yoga room. This LEED certified building focuses on sustainability and wellness. This 2-bedroom den residence will feature concrete ceilings, floor to ceiling windows that showcase some of the most dynamic cityscape & river views available. Your choice of designer curated finishes will include wide-plank hardwood flooring throughout, custom European-style kitchens, quartz counters, and designer baths. Garage parking available for purchase. Delivery 2023.
At least 3 hurt in South Loop crash after boy driving stolen SUV led officers on chase, state police say
State police are investigating the crash and Chicago police are handling the arrest, officials said.
By Sun-Times Wire
Jun 11, 2022, 1:09pm CDT

State troopers investigate the scene where a boy struck a car with a stolen Jeep June 10, 2022 in the South Loop.
Tyler Pasciak LaRiviere/Sun-Times

At least three people were hurt in a crash in the South Loop, including a boy who led law enforcement on a chase with a stolen SUV that started late Friday night, according to Illinois state police.

Illinois state troopers noticed the silver Jeep Grand Cherokee, which was reported stolen, on Interstate 94 near Michigan Avenue on the Far South Side about 9:30 p.m., state police said, adding that troopers lost track of the Jeep shortly after.

About two hours later, a Chicago police helicopter located it. The Jeep fled from Chicago police officers who were trying to conduct a traffic stop. The Jeep eventually collided with a car near Wabash and Balbo avenues, authorities said.

The driver and a passenger in the car struck by the Jeep were taken to area hospitals with injuries not considered life-threatening, state police said.

Illinois State Police officers work the scene of a vehicle crash in the 700 block of South Wabash Avenue early Saturday.
Tyler Pasciak LaRiviere/Sun-Times

CBS Chicago reported an officer, who was on foot, was hit by one of the cars and was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in good condition.

The boy who was driving the Jeep ran from the scene, but was caught after a short pursuit, officials said.

He was taken to an area hospital with unspecified injuries, state police said. His age and condition weren’t immediately available.

State police are investigating the crash and Chicago police are handling the arrest, officials said.

No further details were released.

http://chicago.suntimes.com

Did you know the South Loop Neighborhood Watch - Police Beat 123 has a facebook page?
We do!...and we encourage you to use it!

The South Loop Neighborhood Watch – Police Beat 123 Facebook Page is a crime communication tool intended to enable the rapid sharing of crime alerts and crime prevention news specifically for Police Beat 123. This area is the section of the South Loop that is bordered by Ida B. Wells on the north, Roosevelt Road on the South, the Chicago River on the west and Michigan Avenue on the east.

Link to Facebook group:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/1475398529519963/
Please stay engaged! The safety and security of our neighborhood is everyone’s business!

801 S Plymouth Ct Enclosed Parking.
Space 57, first level $35,000 Thomas Palmen@properties, 312.543.9380

A one car outdoor parking space for rent in Dearborn Park One. $170/month, with a one month deposit. Payment by Zelle due every month at the 1st of the month. Rental agreement ends when either party requests in writing via email 30 days prior. Write to holthaus@okapikissa.com for more details.
Police Blotter

http://home.chicagopolice.org/

Next CAPS Meeting July 13, 2022
3PM on Zoom
caps.001district@chicagopolice.org

3 shot walking along lakefront near Museum Campus. The wounded were walking along the lakefront in the 1200 block of South Jean-Baptiste Pointe DuSable Lake Shore Drive about 1:30 a.m. when they were struck by gunfire, Chicago police said.

By Sun-Times Wire  Updated Jun 11, 2022, 1:06pm CDT

A man was shot walking along the lakefront June 11, 2022.

Sun-Times file

Three people were shot while walking along the lakefront early Saturday near the Museum Campus on the Near South Side.

The wounded were walking along the lakefront in the 1200 block of South Jean-Baptiste Pointe DuSable Lake Shore Drive about 1:30 a.m. when they were struck by gunfire, Chicago police said.

One man, 19, was shot in the face and taken to Stroger Hospital in critical condition, police said.

Another man, 20, was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital with a gunshot wound to the chest, police said. His condition was stabilized.

A third man, 18, was shot in the leg and was taken to Stroger in good condition, officials said.

http://chicago.suntimes.com/

The Dearborn Express

We welcome letters to the editor.

This publication is sponsored by the South Loop Referral Group, a professional and business networking group. It is our mission to provide the Printers Row area with current news and to promote local businesses and organizations.

This publication will be distributed through email to individuals who wish to receive it. If you have any questions or would like to contribute information, please email us: thedearborenexpress@gmail.com

Dearbornexpress.net/
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$150,000
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4/6/22

$242,000
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4/6/22

$340,000
740 S FEDERAL ST 1001
4/5/22

$297,500
520 S STATE ST 1404
4/1/22

$343,000
1345 S WABASH AVE 1604
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$300,000
888 S MICHIGAN AVE 601
3/31/22

$275,000
431 S DEARBORN ST 1005
3/30/22

$183,000
899 S PLYMOUTH CT 607
3/29/22

$1,750,000
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3/29/22

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